WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for providing application software for a peripheral device to be installed in a computer system, comprising the steps of:

rendering said application software into a memory module coupled to said peripheral device;

upon coupling said peripheral device to said computer system by a user, querying said peripheral device by an operating system executing on said computer system; and

responsive to said querying step, uploading said application software into said computer system from said memory module coupled to said peripheral device.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of rendering said application software into a memory module comprises the step of programming a flash read-only memory (ROM) module with said application software.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said application software comprises at least one of customer usage application software, customer support diagnostic application software, driver software and at least one default setting with respect to said peripheral device.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of rendering said application software into a memory module comprises the step of programming a nonvolatile memory (NVM) module with said application software.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of rendering said application software into a memory module comprises the step of programming an electrically programmable read-only memory (EPROM) module with said application software.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of rendering said application software into a memory module comprises the step of programming an electrically erasable programmable read-only memory (EEPROM) module with said application software.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of rendering said application software into a memory module comprises the step of programming a nonvolatile random access memory (NVRAM) module with said application software.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of querying said peripheral device comprises the step of making a determination by said operating system whether said application software is compatible with said operating system.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of querying said peripheral device comprises the step of making a determination by said operating system whether said application software is compatible with said computer system.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of querying said peripheral device by an operating system is performed in association with Microsoft® Windows® operating system.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of querying said peripheral device by an operating system is performed in association with a UNIX-based operating system.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of querying said peripheral device by an operating system is performed in association with Linux® operating system.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of querying said peripheral device by an operating system is performed in association with Macintosh® MacOS® operating system.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of querying said peripheral device by an operating system is performed in association with Solaris® operating system.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of querying said peripheral device by an operating system is performed in association with AIX® operating system.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of querying said peripheral device by an operating system is performed in association with HP-UX® operating system.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein said peripheral device is selected from the group consisting of: a printer, a digital camera and a scanner.

18. A system for providing application software for a peripheral device to be installed in a computer system, comprising:

a memory module associated with said peripheral device, said memory module including said application software;

means associated with said computer system for querying said peripheral device when said peripheral device is operably coupled to said computer system; and

means in said peripheral device operable to upload said application software into said computer system from said memory module based on control signals provided to said peripheral device from said computer system.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein said memory module comprises one of a flash ROM module, an EPROM module, an EEPROM module and an NVRAM module.

20. The system of claim 18, wherein said application software comprises at least one of customer usage application software, customer support diagnostic application software, driver software and at least one default setting with respect to said peripheral device.

21. The system of claim 18, wherein said peripheral device is selected from the group consisting of: a printer, a digital camera and a scanner.

22. A computer-readable medium operable in association with a computer system to which a peripheral device is to be coupled, said computer-readable medium carrying a sequence of instructions which, when executed in conjunction with said computer system, causes the following steps to be performed:

upon coupling said peripheral device to said computer system by a user, querying said peripheral device by an operating system executing on said computer system;

determining whether a memory module associated with said peripheral device includes application software compatible with at least one of said computer system and said operating system, said application software for operating said peripheral device in association with said computer system; and

responsive to said determining step, uploading said application software into said computer system.

23. The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein said memory module is selected from the group consisting of: a flash ROM module, an EPROM module, an NVRAM module and an EEPROM module.

24. The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein said peripheral device is selected from the group consisting of: a printer, a digital camera and a scanner.

25. The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein said operating system is selected from the group consisting of a Unix-based operating system, Microsoft® Windows® operating system, Windows® NT® operating system and Macintosh® MacOS® operating system.

26. The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein said application software comprises at least one of customer usage application software, customer support diagnostic application software and driver software.

27. The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein said application software comprises at least one default setting with respect to said peripheral device.